

Response Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116
Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 2875

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	Walter Fleischmann, et al.	Examiner:	Hargobind S. Sawhney
Serial No.:	10/731,344	Art Unit:	2875
Filed:	December 9, 2003	Docket:	17240
For:	LIGHTING SYSTEM FOR AIRCRAFT CABINS	Dated:	November 8, 2006

Confirmation No.: 3553

Commissioner for Patents
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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of September 8, 2006, applicants respectfully traverse the final rejection of the application, which is predicated on a combination of the previously cited patent to Fleischmann (U.S. Patent No. 6,203,180 B1) in view of newly cited Hochstein (U.S. Patent No. 5,661,645), pursuant to 35 U.S. C. §103(a).

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Dated: November 8, 2006



Leopold Presser

Upon careful consideration of the art, applicants respectfully submit that the claims currently on file, are deemed to clearly and patentably distinguish thereover, irrespective as to whether Fleischmann is considered singly or in combination with Hochstein.

Particularly, with regard to Fleischmann, this is applicants' own publication and is commonly assigned to the present assignee, and wherein substantiating arguments have been previously presented setting forth the distinctions over this publication, as claimed herein.

Concerning the foregoing, applicants also note the Examiner's indication that Fleischmann does not specifically teach the LED based lighting system, which is operatively coupled to a control unit, a pulse width modulator and a plurality of regulating modules, as set forth in the claims in a novel and patentably unique mode.

However, applicants note that the Examiner has now newly cited the Hochstein publication in combination with previously cited Fleischmann. Nevertheless, upon careful consideration of the Examiner's grounds of rejection, Hochstein does not in any manner disclose, anticipate nor even remotely suggest any applicability with respect to the present invention, irrespective as to whether Hochstein is combined with Fleischmann, or whether considered individually. The claims, as presently on file, clearly and unambiguously distinguish patentably over Hochstein, as well as over Fleischmann.

In particular, reverting in specific detail to the newly cited U.S. patent, Hochstein, the integrated circuit controller or control unit 40 disclosed therein provides only a single output, which is a control output line 20, forming an input line to an LED array, to which there are connected a plurality of lines or strings of sequentially switched LEDs in parallel with each other. However, Hochstein fails to provide any kind of suggestion or disclosure that the control unit or

I.C. controller 40 is provided in a multi-channel configuration, so as to be able to actually activate or regulate individual LED strings or lines independently of each other in a manner, as in the instance of the present invention as presently claimed herein in specific detail. In addition thereto, the resistors (R1, R2, R3, R4, R5), such as the ballasting resistor 16, as set forth in column 5, line 7 in Hochstein, do not behave in any manner as a regulating or control module within the context or sense of the present invention. To the contrary, the foregoing relates primarily to “dumb” or non-responsive compensating resistors. The current, which flows through the light emitting diodes, is not measured at any time or point, and, naturally, fails to provide any feedback of a corresponding measurement value into any kind of suitable control installation, so that there is no presence in the prior art of a control loop and, consequently, also no control module in the sense of the present invention.

In Hochstein, there is merely controlled the light output, or, in essence, light intensity of the collective LED arrangement, and through an interval or range of different input voltages is maintained at an essentially constant level, referring to Hochstein, at column 6, lines 24 through 27. This aspect, however, has absolutely nothing in common with the current regulation or control pursuant to the present invention.

Thus, in Hochstein, it is also impossible to have a plurality of control modules connected to different and with respect to each other mutually independent controllable outputs of the control unit, as is provided for in the case of the present invention, as claimed herein.

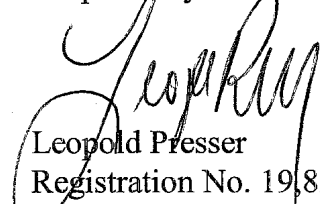
Moreover, however, an even further extremely important point of distinction resides in that Hochstein controls all of the connected light diodes equally, through a single channel, whereas, in contrast therewith, pursuant to the present invention, different LED lighting units can

be actuated or controlled differently through a plurality of channels and, consequently, there can be attained the most diverse and differing types of illuminating effects. This effect is completely foreign to and inapplicable in Hochstein, and one of skill in this technology would not in any manner consider utilizing Hochstein, nor would the disclosure thereof lead to any suggestion as to the presently claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as presently on file, clearly and patentably distinguish over Fleischmann and also the newly cited Hochstein, irrespective as to whether these publications are considered singly or in combination, and the early issuance of the Notice of Allowance by the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

However, in the event that the Examiner has any queries concerning the instantly submitted Amendment, applicants' attorney respectfully requests that he be accorded the courtesy of possibly a telephone conference to discuss any matters in need of attention.

Respectfully submitted,



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